Setting up of industries in the backward districts of Punjab

1015. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for setting up of industries in the backward districts of Punjab State and steps taken to implement the policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) After the introduction of the new Industrial Policy and various other measures aimed at liberalisation of the economy, the main responsibility for industrialisation of backward areas/districts of the country has been left with the State Governments concerned. Most of the State Governments have been operating various incentive Schemes for industrial development of their own backward areas. Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible.

Presently Government of India has been operating a Growth Centre Scheme and an Integrated Infrastructure Scheme (IID Scheme) for promoting industrialisation of backward areas. Under the Growth Centre Scheme, 1988 the State of Punjab has been allotted two growth centres at Bhatinda and Pathankot. Full amount of Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores each has already been released towards them.

Under the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme one (1) Centre has been sanctioned at village Dhanchala of Jhans Block Tanda, District Hoshiarpur in Punjab. An amount of Rs. 46.00 lakhs has also been released as central assistance.

Non-payment of statutory post-retirement dues to CPSU employees

1016. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 208 on 15th July, 1996, regarding non-payment of statutory post-retirement dues to CPSU employees and state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that about 2000 employees of M/s JESSOP are yet to get their gratuity since 1992;

(b) whether payment of statutory liability like gratuity can be kept in abeyance till finalisation or otherwise of revival scheme as per payment of Gratuity Act;

(c) if not, the action taken by the Labour Ministry to ensure payment of gratuity to workers of JESSOP and other CPSUs; and

(d) the accountability of authorities responsible for implementation of statutory Acts like Payment of Gratuity Act etc.?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to cash losses from 1990-91 onwards the company has not been able to pay gratuity dues to 2294 retired employees of M/s Jessop and Co. Ltd. from June, 1993.

(b) to (d) Under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the responsibility for payment of gratuity vests in the employer. An employee can make an application for delayed payment of gratuity to the controlling authority for necessary action. The controlling authority, after necessary enquiry, issues a certificate to the collector for recovery of the gratuity payable to the employee, who is required to collect the same as arrears of land revenue. Non-payment of gratuity is a punishable offence. However, according to the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA) during the currency of proceedings of a sick company in the BIFR, no prosecution can be launched by the Government against the defaulting units except with the consent of BIFR. M/s JESSOP & Company is a sick company registered with BIFR.

Growth rates in Super Bazar

1017. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total per-capita growth rates in Super Bazar sector during the last three years, department branch-wise and year-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;